

The response from the BLUE MARINE MANAGEMENT CORP.
to the safety recommendation of the collision between
cargo ship and container ship at Bisan Seto in Japan

The Japan Transport Safety Board received the response from the BLUE MARINE MANAGEMENT CORP. to the safety recommendation issued on Oct. 28, 2011 as attached regarding the collision between cargo ship MARINE STAR and container ship TAKASAGO at Bisan Seto in Japan on February 20, 2009.

The actions taken by the BLUE MARINE MANAGEMENT CORP. meet the safety recommendation.

JTSB Safety Recommendation to the BLUE MARINE MANAGEMENT CORP.

The accident occurred at night in the Bisan Seto East Traffic Route off Sakaide Port, where MARINE STAR (hereinafter referred to as “Ship A”) was proceeding northward and TAKASAGO (hereinafter referred to as “Ship B”) was proceeding eastward along the East Traffic Route, when Ship A, although obligated to keep out of the way of Ship B proceeding along the route, was proceeding with the intention of passing by the stern of Ship B in a situation where there was risk of collision with Ship B, without noticing that Ship A was approaching ahead of Ship B. It is fortunate that the accident caused no severe pollution although the site of the collision is located in a key area for the transportation and fishing industries and is always congested with heavy vessel traffic.

The Japan Transport Safety Board, in view of the results of this accident investigation, recommends the Panama Maritime Authority, the ASIA SHIPPING NAVIGATION S.A. as the owner of Ship A and the BLUE MARINE MANAGEMENT CORP. as the management company of Ship A to take the following actions.

The Panama Maritime Authority should guide the ASIA SHIPPING NAVIGATION S.A. to have the BLUE MARINE MANAGEMENT CORP. execute proper ship management to secure safe operation.

The ASIA SHIPPING NAVIGATION S.A. should instruct the BLUE MARINE MANAGEMENT CORP. to follow the navigation rules of the state where vessel call, prepare a proper watchkeeping arrangement and ensure the safety of navigation.

The BLUE MARINE MANAGEMENT CORP. should provide clear and specific instructions on the rules that must be obeyed to the ships that navigate in this sea area, and at the same time guide the ships to ensure safety by reinforcing watchkeeping arrangements on the bridge through the measures including the increase of the number of crew on bridge watchkeeping duty.



BLUE MARINE MANAGEMENT CORP.
SHIP'S MANAGERS



To : JAPAN TRANSPORT SAFETY BOARD
2-1-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8918
Japan

15 Dec 2011

Att: Dr. Norihiro Goto
Chairman

Dear Sir,

Re : Safety Recommendation and Final Report on the Investigation of the collision between cargo ship MARINE STAR and container ship TAKASAGO at Bisan Seto in Japan on February 20, 2009.

Received your letter of October 28, 2011 and the attached final investigation report. We have read and studied the final investigation report and we agreed to the safety recommendations regarding this collision accident.

Please be advised that Blue Marine Management (BMMC) carried out followings:

1. BMMC disseminated " Instruction to Master " to all managed ships regarding this incident for crew further awareness of the accident stating its root cause and countermeasures to avoid recurrence.
2. BMMC provide onboard training for bridge personnel to ensure crew are competent to implement navigational procedures correctly and safely.
3. BMMC launched a year round "Campaign against Collision and Stranding "since the incident and constantly remind all vessels in the fleet especially passing narrow channels at Japanese ports , likewise to ensure the crew awareness of safe navigation.
4. BMMC monitor and ensure that the procedures of the safety management system has been followed and carrying out evaluation of the safety performance through reporting systems , by constant visiting of ships by Superintendent to check the safety operation of the vessel.

BMMC highly appreciate your authority for carrying out investigation with this accident and ensure to continue and keep monitor its managed ships to further enhance safety navigation and avoid recurrence of the incident.

Sincerely yours,

BMMC/GM

